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SENATE PANEL BACKS HELMS

Director-Designate Pledges
No CIA Policy Role

By RODNEY CROWTHER

Washington, Bureau of the Sun — After hearing strong assurances that the CIA will devote itself strictly to the business of intelligence and not try to make foreign policy, the Senate Armed Services Committee today approved Richard Helms as the agency's director.

The 53-year-old Helms, who has served as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency since April, 1963, was nominated last Saturday by President Johnson to succeed Adm. William C. Raborn as head of the agency.

During a brief and friendly interrogation by the senators, Helms pledged that he would not only keep the agency out of policy-making roles, but also undertake to give congressional committees all the information possible within the limits of presidential directives.

Frosch Also Supported

The committee also approved the president's nomination of Dr. Robert A. Frosch, 36, a specialist in underwater acoustics and underseas warfare, to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for research and development, and of Myron R. Blee, president of the Junior College of Broward county, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to be deputy

director of the Office of Emergency Planning.

Meanwhile, the Senate Commerce Committee, meeting in another building, completed hearings on three other presidential nominations:

1. Rosel H. Hyde, 66, a Republican and an incumbent on the Federal Communications Committee, to be chairman of the FCC.

2. Nicholas Johnson, 31, former maritime administrator, to be a new member of the commission.

3. Lawrence J. O'Connor, Jr., a Texas Democrat, reappointed as a member of the Federal Power Commission.

Questioning Restricted

Questioning of the FCC appointees was directed entirely to problems connected with broadcasting by satellite and development of ultra high frequency stations.

Hyde, who has been acting FCC chairman since E. William Henry resigned earlier this year, has served with the commission since its creation in 1934.

He told the Commerce Committee that direct broadcasting from satellite to home receiving set is technologically possible but would require special receivers.

Moreover, satellites would have to be far more powerful than now, and a multitude of knotty problems would be involved, he said.

Budget Called Checked

During the Senate committee's interrogation of Helms, he said that the CIA's budget is scrutinized not only "as carefully as any budget in Washington," but probably more so by the Budget Bureau as well as by Mahon's House committee.

Senator Saltonstall (R., Mass.), a member of the surveillance subcommittee on the CIA, asked Helms whether the CIA, as some have charged, "makes foreign policy abroad."

"The CIA has no responsibility whatsoever for government policy," Helms replied. "To the best of my knowledge, it has never attempted to make policy."